

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-522

March 23, 1999

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Investigation into Electronic  
Business Transaction Standards for  
the Exchange of Information in a  
Restructured Electricity Industry

REQUEST FOR  
COMMENTS

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, DIAMOND Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

Through this Request, we seek comments from interested persons on the report filed by the Maine Electronic Business Transactions Working Group entitled "Maine Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in the Restructured Electric Industry."

**II. BACKGROUND**

On July 20, 1998, the Commission issued a Notice of Inquiry in Docket No. 98-522. In the Notice, the Commission initiated a statewide working group to develop recommendations for procedures, electronic protocols, and data formats to be used when transferring data among entities in Maine after implementation of open access on March 1, 2000. The Notice directed the working group to present its recommendations in a report to the Commission on or before February 28, 1999.

On March 15, 1999, the Commission issued Chapter 322 (Metering, Billing, Collections, and Enrollment Interactions among Transmission and Distribution Utilities and Competitive Electricity Providers) in Docket No. 98-810. In Section 9(B)(1) of Chapter 322, the Commission directs entities operating in Maine's retail market to observe the guidelines embodied in the working group's report by stating:

Each transmission and distribution utility and each competitive electricity provider shall transfer data between each other in accordance with procedures and formats specified in the EBT Standards approved by the Commission as they may change from time to time...

The Maine Electronic Business Transaction Working Group met regularly from August, 1998, until March, 1999. The Working Group consisted of Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, Central Maine Power Company, Energy Atlantic, Energy Options Consulting Group, Kennebunk Light & Power, MainePower, Maine Public Service Company and the Maine Public Utilities Commission Staff. As directed by the Notice, the Working Group used the Massachusetts EBT Standards document as a

template and modified those standards to comply with Maine's rules and legislation. The group considered emerging national and regional standards. The group developed its recommendations through collaboration.

On February 26, 1999, the Working Group filed its report, entitled "Maine Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Rules for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in the Restructured Electric Industry." As stated in the Notice, the Commission will consider the recommendations in the report, will allow input from interested parties, and will approve the final standards no later than June 30, 1999.

### **III. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Through this Request for Comments, we seek comments from interested persons on the report filed by the Maine EBT Working Group. After considering the report and the comments, we will either adopt the report or direct changes. We will issue our conclusions by June 10, to allow the Working Group to revise and resubmit the report, if necessary, for our approval on June 30.

Interested persons may obtain the report from the Maine Public Utilities Commission web page ([www.state.me.us/mpuc](http://www.state.me.us/mpuc), then access the Retail Electricity Provider Information section and the EBT Rules subsection).<sup>1</sup> Appendix C is stored separately from the remainder of the report to make retrieval more efficient. The Commission will send a copy upon request.

Interested persons may send comments by April 30 to:

Dennis L. Keschl, Administrative Director  
Maine Public Utilities Commission  
242 State Street, 18 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 23rd day of March, 1999.

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

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<sup>1</sup>The report will also appear on Central Maine Power Company's web page ([www.cmpco.com](http://www.cmpco.com), then access the Retail Competition section and the Supplier subsection) after March 31.